

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed March 26, 2004. The Office Action allowed claims 19, 21, and 22, objected to claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 13, and 18 and rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14-17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 20 have been amended. Claims 3 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1-2, 4-17, and 19-22 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14-17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ladetto et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20030018430).

Applicants traverse this rejection in its entirety. While Applicants disagree that Ladetto teaches the claimed invention, in the interest of expediency, Applicants have amended the rejected claims to include limitations which the Examiner has indicated are allowable.

As noted below, claims 1, 14, and 17 have been amended to include the objected limitations of claim 3 and claim 20 has been amended to include the allowable limitations of claim 8.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that the invention recited in claims 1-2, 4-17, and 19-22 is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections be withdrawn.

Objected Claims

The Office Action objected to claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 13, and 18 as being dependent on rejected claims but otherwise allowable.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3, thus placing claim 1 in condition of allowance.

Applicants have amended claim 8 to include the limitations of claim 1, thus placing claim 8 in condition of allowance.

Applicants have amended claim 11 to include the limitations of claim 1, thus placing claim 11 in condition of allowance.

Applicants have amended claim 13 to include the limitations of claim 1, thus placing claim 13 in condition of allowance.

Applicants have amended claim 14 to include the allowable limitations of claim 3, thus placing claim 14 in condition of allowance.

Applicants have amended claim 17 to include the allowable limitations of claim 3, thus placing claim 17 in condition of allowance.

Applicants have amended claim 20 to include the allowable limitations of claim 8, thus placing claim 20 in condition of allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that these claims be allowed and the patent issued.

Allowed Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 19, 21, and 22. Issuance of the patent is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

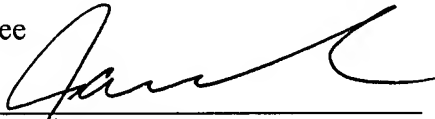
In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited. Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 19-2814 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicants hereby request such an extension.

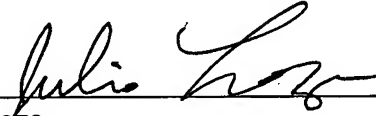
Respectfully submitted,

Snell & Wilmer, L.L.P.

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited on June 3, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313

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Signature

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